AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An optical diffusion film for rear projection type display devices, which comprises:

a transparent base layer,

a layer of transparent microspheres ~~formed over~~ disposed on said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

a light absorbing layer formed over one side of said transparent base layer ~~at one of opposite sides~~ so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said light absorbing layer ~~being made of~~ comprising a coloring material; ~~convertible to fine metal particles under specified conditions~~

wherein the coloring material comprises silver behenite.

2. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 1, and further comprising a transparent substrate on which said transparent base layer is formed.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 2, wherein ~~said coloring material for~~ said

transparent base layer material ~~contains~~ comprises a reducing material.

5. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 4, wherein said reducing material comprises a gallic acid.

6. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 1, wherein said transparent microspheres are between approximately 3 μm and approximately 50 μm in volumetric mean size.

7. (currently amended) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 6, wherein said transparent microspheres are between approximately 3 μm and approximately 15 μm in volumetric mean size~~. for use with a display device having a distance of distinctive vision of approximately 300mm~~.

8. (currently amended) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 6, wherein said transparent microsphere is between approximately 10 μm and approximately 50 μm in volumetric mean size ~~when said optical diffusion film is for use with a display device having a distance of distinctive vision of approximately 2 m~~.

9. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film comprising:

a transparent base layer;

a layer of transparent microspheres distributed in a random pattern over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent

base layer;

a first light absorbing layer formed over one of opposite surfaces of said transparent base layer so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare; and

a second light absorbing layer formed over another surface of said transparent base layer, said second light absorbing layer having transparent areas arranged in a pattern mating said random pattern of distribution of said transparent microspheres.

10. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, and further comprising a transparent binder layer formed over said first light absorbing layer and said layer of transparent microspheres.

11. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, and further comprising a transparent substrate on which said second light absorbing layer, said transparent base layer and said first light absorbing layer are formed.

12. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said coloring material for said transparent base layer material contains a reducing material.

13. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 12, wherein said reducing material comprises a gallic acid.

14. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said transparent microsphere has a volumetric mean size between approximately 0.5 μm and approximately 50 μm.

15. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said first light absorbing layer comprises one of a negative type of photosensitive coloring material and a black dye.

16. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said second light absorbing layer comprises a negative type of photosensitive coloring material.

17. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said first light absorbing layer comprises one of a negative type of photosensitive coloring material and a black dye.

18. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said first light absorbing layer is made of a material convertible to fine metal particles under specified conditions.

19. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 9, wherein said coloring material comprises silver behenite.

20. (withdrawn) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 19, wherein said reducing material comprises a gallic acid.

21. (currently amended) A process of producing an optical diffusion film which comprises at least a transparent base layer, a layer of transparent microspheres over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and a light absorbing layer over said transparent base layer leaving each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said optical diffusing film comprising the steps of:

forming a transparent base layer on a transparent substrate;

distributing transparent microspheres in a layer over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

forming a light absorbing layer over said transparent base layer leaving each said transparent microsphere partly bare by coating a solution layer of coloring material; ~~that is convertible into fine metal particles under specified conditions~~ and

after coating the solution layer, treating said solution layer of coloring material ~~under said specified conditions~~ so as thereby to convert said solution layer of coloring material into a layer of fine metal particles as said light absorbing layer.

22. (currently amended) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 21, ~~wherein~~ comprising the further step of heating said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer ~~is heated~~ so as to partly embed each said transparent microsphere in said transparent base layer.

23. (currently amended) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 21, ~~wherein~~ comprising the further step of heating said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer ~~is heated~~ through a heat conductive flexible sheet put over said layer of transparent microspheres.

24. (original) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 23, wherein said heat conductive flexible sheet comprises silicone rubber.

25. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film which comprises at least a transparent base layer, a layer of transparent microspheres with ach said transparent microsphere partly embedded in said transparent base layer, a first light absorbing layer formed over one of opposite surfaces of said transparent base layer so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare, and a second light absorbing layer formed over another surface of said transparent base layer, said second light absorbing layer having transparent areas

arranged in a pattern mating said random pattern of distribution of said transparent microspheres, said optical diffusion film producing process comprising the steps of:

forming a transparent base layer on a transparent substrate;

distributing transparent microspheres in a random pattern over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer;

forming a first light absorbing layer over one of opposite surfaces of said transparent base layer leaving each said transparent microsphere partly bare; and

forming a second light absorbing layer over another surface of said transparent base layer by forming a preparatory layer of photosensitive coloring material, exposing said preparatory layer of photosensitive coloring material to light through said layer of transparent microspheres from a side of said first light absorbing layer and developing said preparatory layer of photosensitive coloring material to color said preparatory layer of photosensitive coloring material in a pattern complementary to said random pattern of distribution of said transparent microspheres.

26. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 25, and further comprises the

steps of; forming a transparent binder layer over said optical diffusion film at a side opposite to said transparent base layer; and peeling said transparent substrate apart from said transparent base layer; before forming said second light absorbing layer.

27. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 25, wherein said first light absorbing layer is formed by forming a layer of photosetting material, exposing said layer of photosetting material and developing said exposed layer of photosetting material.

28. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 25, wherein said first light absorbing layer is formed by forming a layer of photosetting photosensitive material, exposing said layer of photosetting material and developing said exposed layer of photosetting material.

29. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 27, and further comprises the step of removing redundant margin of said first light absorbing layer spreading into an intended light transmissible area of said transparent microsphere.

30. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 25, wherein said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer is heated so as to partly embed each said transparent microsphere in said

transparent base layer.

31. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 30, wherein said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer is heated through a heat conductive flexible sheet put over said layer of transparent microspheres.

32. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 31, wherein said heat conductive flexible sheet comprises silicone rubber.

33. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 31, wherein said first light absorbing layer is formed by forming a layer of coloring material that is convertible into fine metal particles under specified conditions and treating said layer of coloring material under said specified conditions so as thereby to convert said layer of coloring material into a layer of fine metal particles.

34. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 33, wherein said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer is heated so as to partly embed each said transparent microsphere in said transparent base layer.

35. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 34, wherein said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer is heated

through a heat conductive flexible sheet put over said layer of transparent microspheres.

36. (withdrawn) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 35, wherein said heat conductive flexible sheet comprises silicone rubber.

37. (new) The process of producing an optical diffusion film of claim 21, wherein the coloring material is silver behenite.

38. (new) An optical diffusion film for rear projection type display devices, which comprises:

a transparent base layer;

a layer of transparent microspheres disposed on said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

a light absorbing layer formed over one side of said transparent base layer so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said light absorbing layer comprising a coloring material,

wherein the coloring material comprises an organometallic salt.

39. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 38, wherein the organometallic salt is selected from a group consisting of silver salts of long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid, silver salts of organic compounds having an imino group,

silver salts of sulfur contained compounds, silver salts of aromatic carboxylic acid, silver salts of sulfonate, silver salts of sulfonic acid, silver salts of phosphoric acid, and silver salts of salicylicaldoxyme.

40. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid.

41. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of organic compounds having an imino group.

42. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is silver salt of sulfur contained compounds.

43. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of aromatic carboxylic acid.

44. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of sulfonate.

45. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of sulfonic acid.

46. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of phosphoric acid.

47. (new) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of salicylicaldoxyme.

48. (new) The process of producing an optical diffusion film of claim 21, wherein the transparent base layer comprises a reducing material, said reducing material reducing the coloring material to produce the fine metal paticles.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-5. The legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to these figures.